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Rural District Council

— OF —

East and West Flegg.

REPORT

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

JOHN BUCKLE, PRINTER, YARMOUTH.

Rural District Council of East & West Flegg.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1920.

Flegg Burgh, Norfolk,

May, 1921.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report upon the conditions of Public Health and Sanitation prevailing throughout the above-named District during the year 1920.

The said District has an area of nearly thirty thousand acres and a population approaching ten thousand persons. It is made up of first-rate arable land, excellent grazing marshes and several fine sheets of water known as Burgh, Filby, Ormesby, Rollesby and Somerton Broads. It is an irregular triangle in shape and is almost entirely surrounded by water, a narrow strip of land at Somerton alone preventing it being a complete island. Upon two sides of the triangle are the Rivers Bure and Thurne, and upon the third the sea. The District is divided into the following villages:—

Known as East Flegg:

Caister.
Filby.
Ormesby St. Margaret.
Ormesby St. Michael.
Runham.
Stokesby with Herringby.
Thrigby.

Known as West Flegg:

Burgh St. Margaret with Billockby.
Clippesby.
Hemsby.
Martham.
Ashby, Oby and Thurne.
Rollesby.
East and West Somerton.
Winterton.

The principal industry is agriculture, and nine-tenths of the population are engaged, directly or indirectly, in that pursuit.

Population Census, 1911: 9,920.

The amount of Poor Law Relief: £1,504 0s. 0d.

EAST AND WEST FLEGG CENSUS, 1911.

EAST FLEGG.

Parish.	...	...	1,938
Caister	...	...	1,938
Filby	...	...	532
Thrigby	...	...	43
Runham	...	...	293
Mautby	...	...	119
Stokesby with Herringby	...	...	351
Ormesby St. Michael	...	...	302
Ormesby St. Margaret	...	...	1,232

4,810

WEST FLEGG.

Parish.	...	...	103
Ashby with Oby	...	...	103
Billockby	...	...	85
Burgh	...	...	613
Clippesby	...	...	138
East Somerton	...	...	82
Hemsby	...	...	713
Martham	...	...	1,267
Repps with Bastwick	...	...	294
Rollesby	...	...	502
West Somerton	...	...	253
Thurne	...	...	152
Winterton	...	...	908

5,110

EAST FLEGG

...

...

4,810

WEST FLEGG

...

...

5,110

Total ... 9,920

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the District is principally derived from wells, mostly shallow, with the exception that in the parishes of Caister-on-Sea, Ormesby St. Margaret and Ormesby St. Michael, supplies are obtained from the Great Yarmouth Water Works Company's mains which run through these parishes. The water obtained from the wells, generally speaking, on analysis has been found to be of fairly good quality. In a few instances towards the latter end of the year some wells were showing signs of getting short of water, but none went dry.

Four new services from the Great Yarmouth Water Works Company's mains have been laid on to existing houses in the parishes of Caister-on-Sea and Ormesby. Two wells have been closed for domestic use owing to the impurity of the water.

Eleven samples of well water were submitted for analysis; three of these were found to be bad. Two wells were closed, and in the other case the well was thoroughly cleaned, cleansed and repaired.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No developments have taken place during the past year with regard to extension or improvement of sewers. The main outfall sewer on the Manor Estate, Caister-on-Sea, which receives the sewage of twelve premises on that estate, owing to the action and encroachment of the sea, is in a very unsatisfactory condition and is practically useless as far as carrying away the sewage into the sea is concerned. This matter, however, is under consideration as to what is best to be done under the circumstances.

The main drains in the larger parishes, known as "Town drains," which serve the purpose of carrying away the sink and other dirty water from houses, are periodically looked to and cleaned out when and where required, and in the case of the parish of Caister-on-Sea are flushed out with water from the Great Yarmouth Water Works Company's mains during the summer months.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In this District the closet accommodation is fairly good, and nearly every house has separate closet accommodation. It is difficult to estimate the number of open and covered middens, but they are extremely few. Nearly all closets are of the earth type with either fixed or movable receptacles.

Approximate number of e.c's.	...	2,489
Approximate number of w.c's.	...	93

Nine new earth closets with fixed receptacles have been erected during the year to replace defective ones. Twenty-three closets have been repaired, bins concreted and cement rendered throughout, and in two of these cases sunk middens abolished.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging of the several parishes in the District remains in the same condition as I reported last year, no fresh developments having taken place.

Two complaints were received during the year as to the non-removal and disposal of refuse, and were immediately dealt with.

In no parish is the scavenging carried out by the District Council, but in the parish of Caister-on-Sea certain men are recognised as regular scavengers by the Parish Council, a Committee of which supervises their work.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Inspection of premises made	...	...	...	233
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	22
Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	52
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	28
Notices served (preliminary 41, legal 8)	...	...	...	49
Nuisances abated through notices served	...	...	...	75
Nuisances abated without notice	...	...	...	30
Legal proceedings taken	...	...	...	Nil

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES AND REPAIRS DEALT WITH.

Overflowing cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	4
Choked drains cleared and cleansed	...	...	...	32
Closets insufficient and dilapidated, new closets provided	...	...	...	9
Earth closets and privies defective, bins leaky, closets provided with concrete floors and bins cement rendered	...	...	...	23
Sunk middens abolished	...	...	...	2
New e.c. pails provided to replace defective ones	...	...	...	2
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	6

New drainage provided to houses	...	...	...	4
Drains repaired	...	...	...	3
Cesspool converted to septic tank and coke breeze filter added			...	1
Defective pumps to wells repaired	...	...	...	3
Wells closed for domestic use ...	...	...	...	2
Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	11
New water supplies laid on to premises, where the well water was polluted, from the Great Yarmouth Water Works Company's mains			...	4
Accumulations of foul refuse and slop water nuisances	...	...	...	5
Foul ponds cleansed	...	...	...	1
Dirty cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	5
Fumigation of infected premises	...	...	...	50
Fumigation of public conveyance	...	...	...	1
Animals improperly kept as to be a nuisance ...	...	...	...	3

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

All the dairies and cowsheds registered under the Orders have been periodically inspected. Generally speaking, they have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. In five cases verbal notice had to be given to cleanse and limewash the interior of the cowsheds, and these notices were immediately complied with.

No action is taken in the District concerning tuberculous milk by the Council.

FUMIGATION OF PREMISES.

During the year fifty premises have been fumigated, by means of formalin gas and liquid formalin, where cases of infectious or contagious diseases had occurred. One motor-car was also fumigated after conveying a patient suffering with scarlet fever to her home.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No bye-laws are in force in this District or are considered needful at present respecting houses let in lodgings. There are no persons carrying on offensive trades in the District, neither are there any underground sleeping rooms.

Slaughter-houses, numbering 7 in 1914, 7 in January, 1920, and 8 in December, 1920, have been found to be kept in a clean condition, and no complaint of any nuisance arising from same has been received.

No public abattoir in this district.

BAKE-HOUSES.

The bake-houses in the District, numbering five, have been periodically inspected. In two cases it was found necessary to issue orders for limewashing the premises.

HOUSING.

Estimated population, 9,920.

General death rate, 9.7 per 1,000.

Number of dwelling houses of all classes, 2,582.

Number of working-class dwelling houses (approximately), 2,303.

Number of new working-class houses erected, 3.

Unfit dwelling houses, nil.

INSPECTION.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects, 58.

Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations (1910), nil.

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, nil.

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 16.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, nil.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

- A. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, nil.
- Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—
- (a) by owners, nil;
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 16.
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—
 - (a) by owners, 16;
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

- C. 1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, 1.
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, 6.
 3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit, nil.
 4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, nil.
 5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (one voluntarily).

Unhealthy areas, nil.

The general housing conditions of the District are fair. The shortage of cottages as reported last year, viz., 80, has not yet been made good. The District Council propose to erect 12 cottages immediately—4 at Caister, 2 Filby, 2 Repps, 2 Martham and 2 at Winterton—as a first instalment. Plans, specifications and tenders for some have been approved, and it is hoped to start building almost immediately. Until some more cottages are provided it is almost hopeless to cope with what overcrowding there is in the District.

Three working-class houses have been erected during the year, and there are five more in course of erection under the Housing Additional Powers Act.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.—One Inspector of Nuisances, who also acts as officer designate to make inspections under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910, and is also Building Surveyor.

BIRTHS.

During the year the total number of births was 254. East Flegg, 143; West Flegg, 111.

EAST FLEGG.			WEST FLEGG.		
Caister	...	...	80	Winterton	...
Filby	...	...	7	Somerton (West)	...
Mautby	...	...	2	Somerton (East)	...
Ormesby St. Margaret	...	23		Repps	...
Ormesby St. Michael	...	7		Thurne	...
Runham	...	10		Rollesby	...
Stokesby	...	13		Martham	...
Thrigby	...	1		Burgh	...
				Clippesby	...
				Hemsby	...
				Oby	...
			143		111

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 60 infectious diseases reported during the year 1920.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	39
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	13
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Septicaemia			...	1
Enteric fever	...	...	...	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorism			...	2
			60	

<i>Winterton</i> :	Scarlet fever	...	3	<i>Filby</i> :	Diphtheria	...	...	1
<i>Ormesby</i> :	Diphtheria	...	2	<i>Runham</i> :	Diphtheria	...	...	1
	Scarlet fever	...	7	<i>Burgh</i> :	Diphtheria	...	...	7
	Erysipelas	...	1	<i>Caister</i> :	Diphtheria	...	...	5
	Enteric fever	...	1		Scarlet fever	...	...	3
	Ophthalmia Neonatorism		1		Erysipelas	...	...	1
<i>Somerton</i> :	Diphtheria	...	3		Enteric fever	...	...	1
<i>Mautby</i> :	Diphtheria	...	1		Ophthalmia Neonatorism			1
<i>Martham</i> :	Diphtheria	...	6	<i>Hemsby</i> :	Puerperal Septicaemia			1
<i>Stokesby</i> :	Diphtheria	...	12		Enteric fever	...	...	1
<i>Rollesby</i> :	Diphtheria	...	1					

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by the District Council. Swabs are also taken in all cases of diphtheria, and no child is allowed to return to school before a negative result has been obtained.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The Council has no scheme.

VENereal Disease.—The Council has no scheme.

SMALLPOX.—No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The District Council arranged with the Flegg Nursing Association to carry out the necessary work.

Causes of Death in East and West Flegg Rural District, 1920.

CIVILIANS ONLY.

Cause of Death.		Males. Females.		Cause of Death.		Males. Females.	
ALL CAUSES ...	...	36	58	22	Nephritis and Bright's disease	2	3
1 Enteric fever	...	1	1	23	Puerperal fever	0	0
2 Small-pox	...	0	0	24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	0	0
3 Measles	...	0	1	25	Congenital debility, etc.	5	4
4 Scarlet fever	...	0	0	26	Violence, apart from suicide	2	0
5 Whooping cough	...	0	0	27	Suicide	0	0
6 Diphtheria and croup	...	2	2	28	Other defined diseases	9	21
7 Influenza	...	1	0	29	Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	1	0
8 Erysipelas	...	1	0	SPECIAL CAUSES (included above)			
9 Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	0	6	Cerebro-spinal fever			
10 Tuberculous meningitis	...	1	0	Poliomyelitis			
11 Other tuberculous diseases	...	0	0	TOTAL DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of age			
12 Cancer, malignant disease	...	3	10	Illegitimate			
13 Rheumatic fever	...	0	0	TOTAL BIRTHS			
14 Meningitis	...	1	2	Legitimate			
15 Organic heart disease	...	2	5	Illegitimate			
16 Bronchitis	...	3	3	POPULATION (for Births and Deaths)			
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	1	0	9599			
18 Other respiratory diseases	...	0	0				
19 Diarrhea, etc., (under 2 years)	1	0					
20 Appendicitis and typhilitis	...	0	0				
21 Cirrhosis of liver	...	0	0				
21A Alcoholism	...	0	0				

In conclusion, I desire to congratulate your Council upon another successful year and to thank you all for the very courteous manner you have always received any suggestions I have brought before your notice and the confidence you place in my opinion, which I appreciate more as the years go by, having been your Medical Officer of Health for twenty-seven years. I should also like to thank Mr. Hobbs, your Inspector of Nuisances, for the great assistance he has rendered me, especially for the able way he has given me details for this report. Hitherto we have sent our year's work in the form of two reports, but this time, as you will see, it is combined.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROYDEN, M.A. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EAST AND WEST FLEGG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

